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RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE
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RHHMUNA/USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0978
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 0869
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0666
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0720
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0804
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0519
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DILI 000156

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP/MTS, DRL, IO
USUN RICHARD MCCURRY
TOKYO FOR HANS KLEMM
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [TT](#)

SUBJECT: CNE CONFIRMS LUOLO VERSUS RAMOS-HORTA RUNOFF

REF: DILI 151

DILI 00000156 001.2 OF 002

¶1. Summary: Defying worries that the national tabulation might stretch on for days, the National Election Commission today, April 18, announced at a late afternoon press conference that it had completed the tabulation and announced the provisional national results, reaffirming that Francisco "Lu'olo" Guterres and Jose Ramos-Horta would face off in the runoff election scheduled for May 9. According to the CNE's final count, Lu'olo gained a total of 27.89 percent of the valid votes while Ramos-Horta gained 21.81 percent. Runner up Fernando "Lasama" Araujo was less than three points behind with 19.18 percent. Turnout was calculated to be 81.7 percent. Although considerably lower than originally reported from the districts, the percent of votes deemed invalid or blank still stood just above five percent. CNE today officially posted the provisional national tally, leaving 24 hours for any disputes to be lodged with the Court of Appeal. The Court will then address any appeals lodged and formally validate the results. Recommended talking points are contained in paragraph 5. End summary.

¶2. At a late afternoon press conference, following a caffeine-fueled 24-hour marathon session, CNE Chairperson Faustino Cardoso announced the results of its tabulation, confirming that Fretilin candidate Lu'olo and independent Ramos-Horta occupied the first and second places respectively. Of a total of 522,933 registered voters, 427,712 voted, reflecting a voter turnout of 81.79 percent. Of these, 403,941 were judged to be valid votes, leaving 23,771 or 5.5 percent discounted as either blank or invalid votes. The breakdown of the results is as follows, in order of percentage of votes received:

CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
<u>¶</u> 1. Francisco "Lu'olo" Guterres	112,666	27.89
<u>¶</u> 2. Jose Ramos-Horta	88,102	21.81
<u>¶</u> 3. Fernando "Lasama" Araujo	77,459	19.18
<u>¶</u> 4. Francisco Xavier do Amaral	58,125	14.39
<u>¶</u> 5. Lucia Lobato	35,789	8.86
<u>¶</u> 6. Manuel Tilman	16,534	4.09

¶7. Avelino Coelho	8,338	2.06
¶8. Joao Carrascalao	6,928	1.72

¶3. In the statement read at the press conference, Cardoso provided an overview of the process and detailed some of the challenges CNE had encountered in reconciling inconsistencies and omissions in some of the district results (Reftel). He noted the tabulation had been completed on April 15, and that CNE then used the additional 72 hours allotted by law to prepare the minutes, including completion of the review and finalization of decisions on invalid and challenged votes. He noted that CNE had requested specific authorization from the Court of Appeal during this latter period to proceed with opening ballot boxes for which there were inconsistencies. The Court's opinion was that the CNE had the authority to take all necessary measures to complete an accurate tabulation.

¶4. Post understands that at the completion of the reading of the results statement in both Tetum and Portuguese, the CNE's provisional national results were deemed to be officially posted, after which a 24 hour period began during which disputes of the results could be lodged with the Court of Appeal. Following the expiration of the 24 hour period, if no disputes are lodged, the CNE will formally convey the national provisional results to the Court for final verification. The Court will have four days to complete the verification. Should any dispute be lodged, the Court has an additional 24 hours up front to make a decision.

¶5. Recommended talking points:

- The USG congratulates the CNE for completing the national tabulation process and posting the provisional national results. This process was carried out transparently and methodically despite many challenges.
- We urge that any complaints received by CNE be adjudicated quickly and fairly.
- We will continue to monitor the situation in East Timor as the country concludes the Presidential election and looks ahead

DILI 00000156 002.2 OF 002

to Parliamentary elections on June 30.
NAGY